



University of Hawaii at Manoa

Environmental Center
Crawford 317 • 2550 Campus Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822
Telephone (808) 948-7361

Office of the Director

RL:0425

SR 85
URGING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO IDENTIFY AND
EVALUATE NUCLEAR WASTE DISPOSAL SITES OFF THE
COAST OF THE STATE

Statement for
Senate Committee on
Ecology, Environment and Recreation
Public Hearing - 10 March 1981

By
Jacquelin N. Miller, Environmental Center
Garret Kawamura, Environmental Center

SR 85 recognizes that nuclear wastes have been disposed of in waters offshore from Hawaii in accordance with then-existing laws, and that serious questions have now been raised as to the potential environmental hazard that such disposal entails. Because of this public concern an extensive program is being developed by certain Federal agencies to identify and evaluate disposal sites in mainland coastal waters. The statement on SR 85 does not represent an institutional viewpoint of the University of Hawaii.

SR 85 urges, by way of copies of this resolution, these federal agencies to include Hawaii in any program to identify and evaluate nuclear waste disposal sites off the coasts of the United States.

The identification of previous dumping sites, and the materials so disposed, is of first order importance to the evaluation of the environmental consequences of nuclear waste disposal at sea. The requested evaluation after identification, may or may not be substantively possible. If the wastes are dispersed beyond measurement with no chemical, physical or biological evidence of their presence then further long term program evaluation seems impossible.

However if the intent of this resolution is to call attention to the general ocean disposal concern and to encourage studies and evaluation of all off-the-coast sites, whether they be oceanic or island based, then the resolution seems appropriate.

We also feel that the results of such studies could be used to re-evaluate Hawaii's policy toward the offshore disposal of nuclear wastes. A complete assessment of the hazards associated with nuclear waste disposal should precede any long term policy decision.